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6 Pages

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February 1965

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION FACILITY STERLITAMAK, USSR



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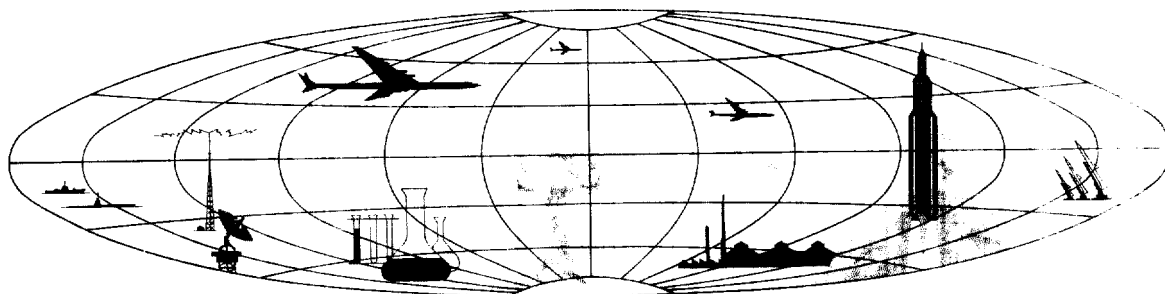
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PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION FACILITY STERLITAMAK, USSR

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present descriptions and interpretations of the Sterlitamak Probable Solid Propellants Test Facility and its associated production facility, Sterlitamak Explosives Plant No 580.

The test facility constitutes the northernmost part of Explosives Plant No 580 (BE No [REDACTED]) and is located approximately 7 nautical miles (nm) north of Sterlitamak, USSR, at 53-43N 55-57E (Figure 1). A separately secured explosives storage area is situated immediately east of the northern half of the explosives plant.

PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY

This test facility is enclosed within a wall and parallel fence that surrounds Explo-

sives Plant No 580 (Figures 2 and 3); an inner wall separates the test facility from the rest of the installation. Rail spurs serve the explosives plant, the test facility, and the explosives storage area. A perspective drawing of the test facility is shown on Figure 4.

The test facility contains the following principal items: an L-shaped test cell (item 1, Figure 3), a blast deflector with concrete facing, a large H-shaped building (item 2), 2 small revetted buildings, 3 large support buildings (items 3, 4, and 5), several smaller support buildings, and a shell-testing range. The H-shaped building may house research and development facilities and provide production and assembly facilities for solid fuel rockets and associated test equipment. The 2 small revetted buildings are probably used to store igniters and similar explosive items.

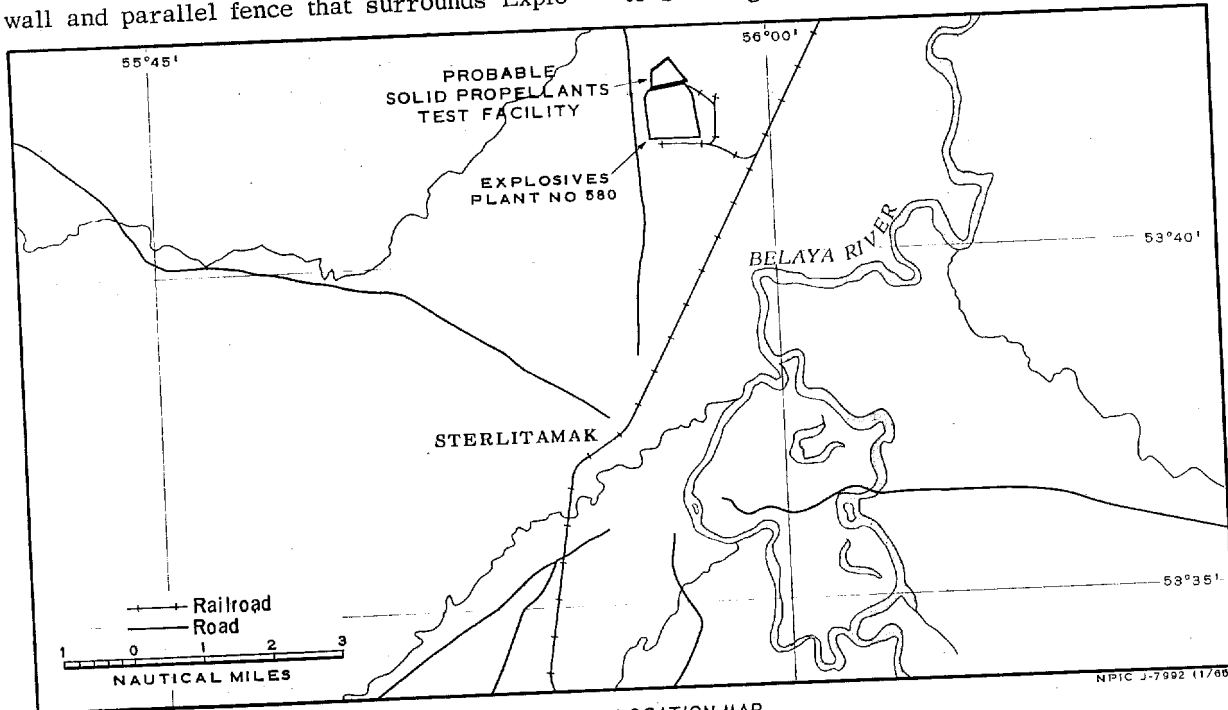


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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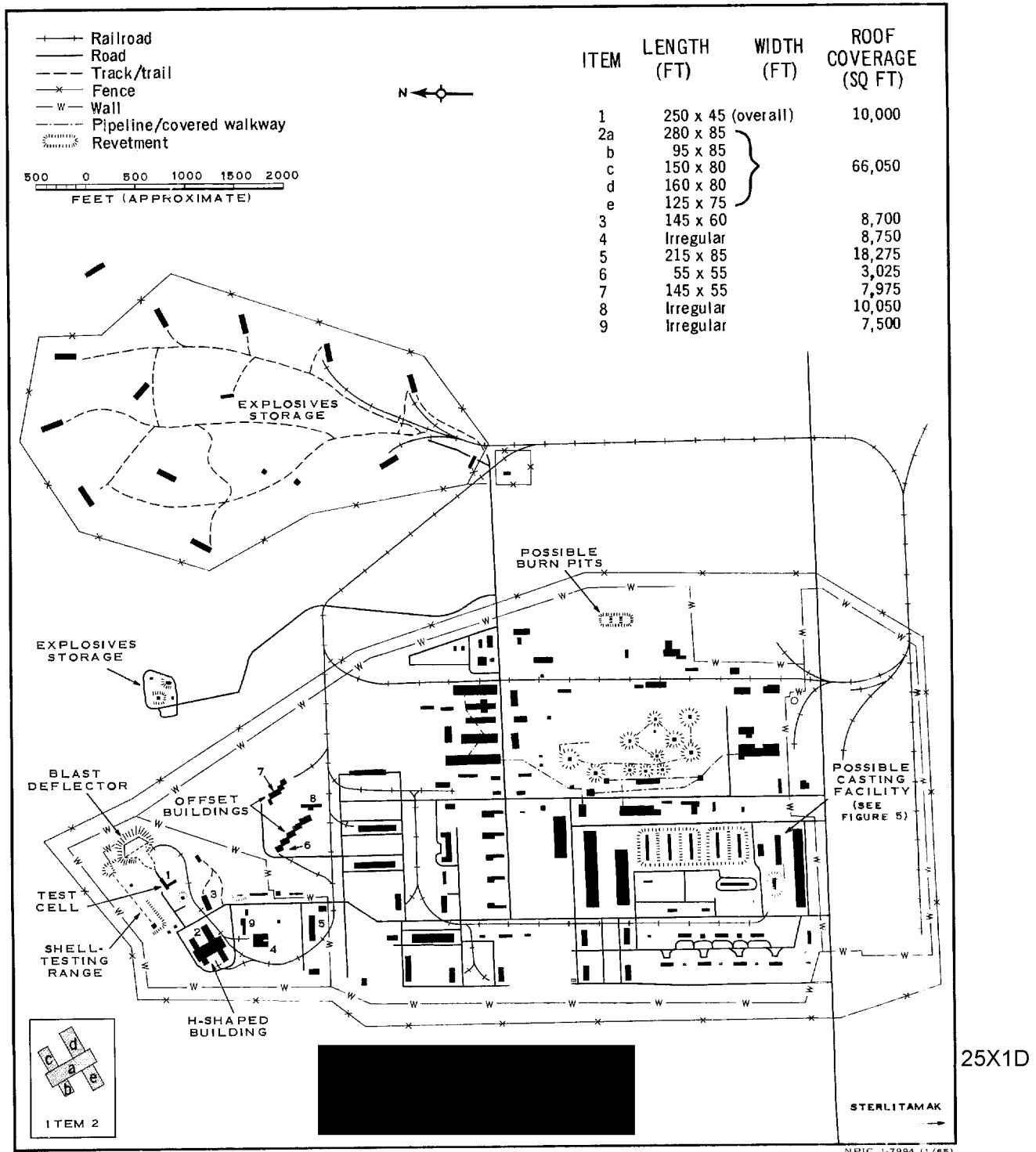


FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF EXPLOSIVES PLANT NO 580.

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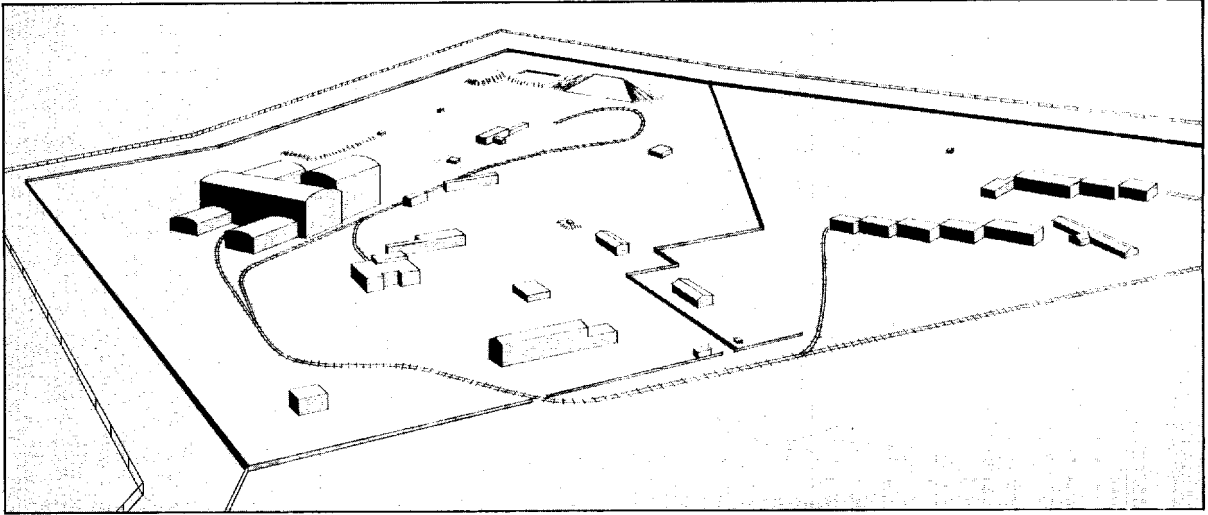


FIGURE 4. PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY.

tion and testing of solid fuel rocket propellants. The location of conveyers and overhead pipeline systems indicates that the solid propellants to be produced will be an adaptation of conventional double-base explosives, that is, smokeless powder.

becomes possible to cast large propellant grains, move them into storage, take them from storage to the temperature conditioning facilities and thence to the test facility, all by means of the existing plant rail net.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXPLOSIVES PLANT AND THE TEST FACILITY

The production of solid propellants at Plant 580 for use in rocket propulsion is suggested by the presence of a probable solid propellants test facility, and the 2 sets of possible temperature conditioning buildings. Additional support for assigning a rocket propellant production capability to Plant 580 is provided by the fact that the casting facility, several storage buildings, and the larger of the 2 temperature-conditioning facilities were all built during the same time period and were additions to a conventional double-base powder plant. Furthermore, all of these facilities can be seen to be interconnected by a rail system that also provides transportation to at least 3 of the major components of the test facility. It thus

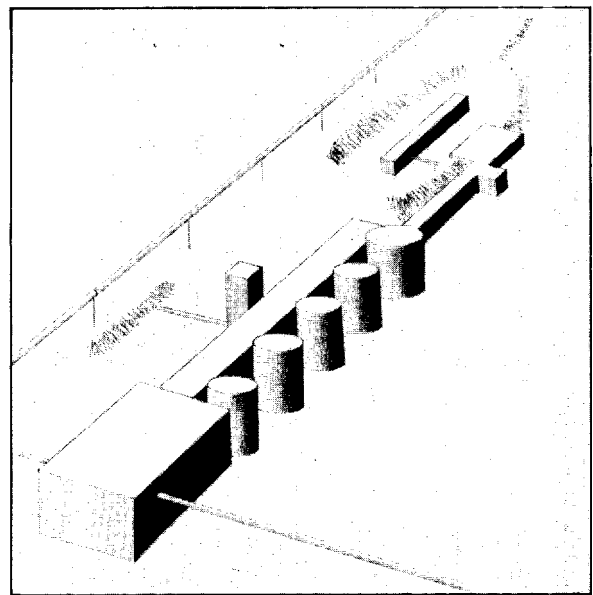


FIGURE 5. PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF A POSSIBLE CASTING FACILITY.

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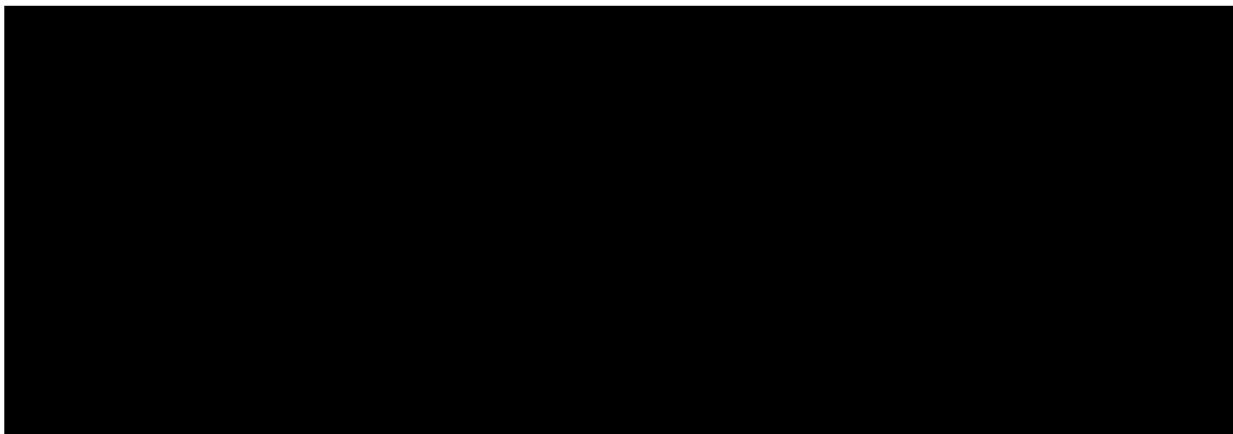
Continuing construction activity in the test facility suggests that it is not yet complete and therefore not yet operational although it is possible that it may have been utilized to some extent prior to completion.

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REFERENCES

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PHOTOGRAPHY



MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0165-15A, 1st ed, Sep 58, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENTS

1. CIA. PIR-17/63, *Probable Solid Propellants Testing Facilities and Associated Explosives Plants in the USSR*, Dec 63 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-RR4-81,679

NPIC PROJECT

N-863/64 (partial answer)

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ERRATA FOR TCS-80154/65

All references in this report to Plant No 580 should be changed to
Plant No 850. References to this plant are as follows:

- Page 1. One each in the right and left columns of text and on Figure 1.
- Page 2. On Figure 2 and in caption of Figure 2.
- Page 3. In caption of Figure 3.
- Page 4. In heading and first line of the right column of text.
- Page 5. Two references in left column of text.

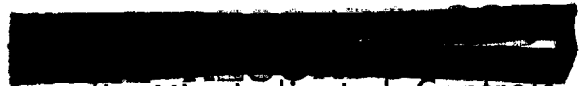
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